14. Every protected area should be managed by forest officers trained in wildlife management.

15. Mitigation measures for human-animal conflict and mechanism for crop insurance, as also expeditious disbursements of *ex-gratia* payments should be instituted by States.

16. Forest Commission should be set-up to look into restructuring, reform and strengthening the entire forest set up and affiliated institutions in the country.

17. A working group shall be constituted to monitor implementation of Wildlife Action Plan.

Pollution in Kolkata

2102. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study on the continuously increasing pollution in Kolkata city;

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to reduce the pollution levels in this metropolitan city; and

(c) whether Government have allocated any funds to the West Bengal Government for controlling pollution in that city; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) The Central Pollution Control Board along with the West Bengal State Pollution Control Board is monitoring the ambient air and water quality in Kolkata.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to reduce the pollution levels in Kolkata city include the following:

(1) Effluent and emission standards for industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.

(2) The Government of West Bengal has evolved a strict industrial locational policy which restricts entry of any new Red category of industry in Kolkata metropolitan area. 235 grossly polluting industries have been identified for priority attention to ensure regulatory compliance. Non-complying units are dealt strictly in accordance with

the environmental law and pollution fine is imposed on those who are violating the prescribed norms.

(3) Major hazardous waste generating units of the State have been identified and they have made arrangement for on-site storage in the absence of a common disposal facility.

(4) West Bengal Cleaner Production Centre has been established in collaboration with the National Cleaner Production Centre and the Indian Chamber of Commerce. Industries are encouraged to go beyond compliance and good performers are honoured with Environmental Excellence Award.

(5) Emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for new vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and are enforced by Transport Department of the Government of West Bengal.

(6) In Kolkata, unleaded petrol is supplied from 1.2.2000 and diesel with 0.25% sulphur maximum content is supplied from 1.1.2000.

(7) Manufacture, sale and use of fire crackers generating noise levels more than 90 dB(AI) at 5 m. distance from point of bursting has been banned in Kolkata. Playing of loudspeakers/ microphones has been restricted and use of sound level metre is made mandatory for playing loudspeakers/microphones. Use of acoustic enclosures has been made mandatory for operating diesel generator sets in Kolkata.

(c) A financial assistance of Rs. 5.00 crores has been provided to the State Government of West Bengal during the year 2001-02 to control pollution in the State, including the city of Kolkata.

Illegal Construction in Northern Ridge in Delhi

2103. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that illegal construction in Northern Ridge, known as Kamla Nehru Ridge, in Delhi was carried out in 1998-99 by the forest department, in utter disregard of the Supreme Court orders which had specifically stated that no construction will be undertaken in Delhi ridge to maintain in its pristine glory;